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Art in Public Places Commission

September 24, 2013

The Art in Public Places Commission (AIPPC) of the City of Annapolis held its regularly scheduled meeting on September 24, 2013 at Pip Moyer Recreation Center. **Chair** Moyer called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m.

Commissioners Present: **Chair** Moyer, Towle-Krewson, Koscianski, Palumbo, Averill, Fridrich, Arthur

Commissioners Absent: Matthews

Staff Present: B. Woodward, D. Jarrell, L. Craig

Guest: Lee Boynton and Anna Greenberg

Chair Moyer opened the meeting with introductions of the Commissioners, guest and staff. She outlined the meeting agenda explaining there will be a report from the two commissioners who were assigned to investigate the history of the public art that was hung in Council Chambers. Once the report is made, the meeting will open for comments from others who additional contributions to add to the discussion.

Chair Moyer provided a copy of the AIPPC bylaws for review pointing out page 4, Section 6.24.060(b) that details the specific requirement for removing public art and noted that this is the basis for the discussion.

City Council Chambers Discussion

Chambers Art History

Ms. Palumbo met with Linnell Bowen who was the Executive Director of the 300 anniversary of the removal of the State capital from St. Mary to the City of Annapolis. Ms. Bowen provided a historical perspective on the specifics of how the project was facilitated at that time. This was a State funded project that lasted approximately a year and included a number of historians, archivists and professionals that advised on the project. As a result of these discussions, it was determined that the project should be a permanent legacy to the City of Annapolis. Ms. Palumbo referred to a recent article in the capital that indicated that Ms. Bowen had offered to house the Boynton art pieces at Maryland Hall pointing out that this article was incorrect. She noted that Ms. Bowen has stated that there is no space at Maryland Hall for works of this size and furthermore she believes that the paintings were site specific so should remain in City Council Chambers.

Ms. Anna Greenberg provided additional history noting that the State capital was moved from St. Mary's to City of Annapolis in 1695 and Ms. Bowen chaired the celebration that occurred in 1994-95 when the paintings was presented. The City provided funding to move forward with the project and a committee consisting of five people who were knowledgeable of history of Annapolis was established. The Committee selected the artwork proposed by Lee Boynton. The City gave Mr. Boynton \$20,000 for the paintings and everyone was happy with the artwork as it enhanced City Council Chambers. She noted that at the time, it was believed that the paintings would be a permanent legacy and the idea that they are being removed is surprising because it is the history of Annapolis. **Chair** Moyer added that the artwork for the four signers is photos by Marion Warren of oil paintings belonging to the State that are now to believe to be at Maryland Historical Trust. However, the costs of these photos are unknown but it is believed they were given to the City during the administration of Mayor Dean Johnson but this is not confirmed.

Mr. Boynton added that after he won the commission to paint these three images; he was advised to form a committee that would provide accountability regarding the accuracy of the City of Annapolis history. There were sketches with many revisions so he worked through the years to create the images as they appear in City Council Chambers. He was carefully astute in all of the elements and features that appeared in the paintings. He added that he decided not to paint the work directly upon the walls of the chambers because the wall of that space was questionable. It was decided to paint the art on stretch canvas specifically designed to fit the area of the walls by which they would be hung so it was always intended to be permanently located in that location.

Process and Condition of the Art

Mr. Jarrell explained that the City decided to begin the process of renovating City Council Chambers approximately a year and half ago with the work being completed in three phases. Phase 1 of the project would consolidate all of the City permitting activities that required moving the Law Office, DNEP and Mayor's office. Phase 1 of the project was completed last year. Phase 2 consisted of architectural and structural renovations to the building specifically to remodel the lobby and renovate council chambers. He noted that the Mayor formed a Council Chambers Advisory Committee (CCAC) to determine the final look of the council chambers. The CCAC charter was to ensure that Mayor John Chambers was sufficiently honored with the work and to get recommendations on the finishes of the new council chambers. The CCAC decided to recreate council chambers to the form and look of the 1930s so a significant amount of analysis was completed specifically review the original paint colors. He noted that part of the discussion was to restore the walls to the look of the 1930s and there was no art on the wall at the time. He emphasized that staff was unaware of the AIPPC function and would have invited an AIPPC member to sit on the CCAC to be involved in the process if they were aware. In September staff went to council to present the recommendations of restoring council chambers back to its 1930s condition and Council approved the recommendation at that time. The council did not like the paint colors so this aspect was modified. The renovation work began and the artwork was removed to be stored upstairs at the old recreation center on St. Mary's Street. The decision was made to leave the clock and the list of mayors at the back. He noted that the plan is to put up a plaque to honor Mayor John Chambers and the ceremony is scheduled for October. He noted that there are no plans to put the art pieces back in chambers. It was his understanding that Ms. Craig had a discussion with Ms. Bowen regarding displaying the art pieces in Maryland Hall.

Response

Mr. Koscianski noted that it is against the law to remove those art pieces from council chambers without consulting the AIPPC. Ms. Greenberg stated that she can appreciate the City wanting to restore the 1930's look but the City paid to have the art pieces hung in council chambers. Ms. Palumbo asked if staff is aware that this was supposed to be a permanent legacy to the City and is this not as valid as the 1930's history. She believes that there was not enough investigation completed prior to the decision to the artwork being removed. Mr. Jarrell responded that CCAC meeting were publicized and a number of public forums were available for the public to comment. AIPPC clarified that it appears that there is no plan to restore the removal so the next step is a recommendation to the Council regarding the art pieces.

Chair Moyer asked about some of the ideas for displaying the artwork discussed by the CCAC. Mr. Jarrell responded that in the schools and Maryland Hall. Ms. Craig added that there was discussion regarding placing the art in another location but ended with no identifiable plan. Mr. Woodward noted that if the AIPPC believes that the art pieces should be restored to council chambers then it should address the issue with Council with a recommended resolution.

AIPPC decided that its next steps would be to meet with the Mayor and Council making sure that history gathered is utilized as well as recommendations for what should be done with the art. Mr. Fridrich believes that the AIPPC should contact the City Attorney on this issue. **Chair** Moyer clarified that the AIPPC will move forward with recommending that there be a plan to use all the art pieces and that the Boynton art be restored to council chambers.

Voting

Mr. Koscianski moved that the Boynton artwork be restored to Council Chambers and that there is a plan to display the other pieces in alternate locations. Mr. Arthur seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Averill suggested a check box on the permitting application form that indicates whether the project affects any public art and agreed to pursue this with Ms. Broadbent. The AIPPC agreed to invite her to the October meeting for further discussion.

Chair Moyer agreed to prepare a draft letter regarding the art pieces and try to get on the Council's October agenda. Members were encouraged to contact their respective council persons. Mr. Woodward was asked to obtain a copy of the Council records for 1994 and 1995 to bring to the AIPPC October meeting. The AIPPC will work on the following prior to the October meeting.

- a. Letter to Council to request the replacement of the Boynton artwork to council chambers;
- b. Invite Ms. Maria Broadbent to the October meeting to discuss the permitting process and a possible public art check off box on the permit applications;
- c. Mr. Fridrich will discuss with Sally Comport for invoicing and any suggestions for alternate sites for the art pieces;
- d. Members to contact Alderman regarding AIPPC law and replacing Boynton artwork;
- e. Ms. Palumbo and Mr. Fridrich will provide a synopsis of history of the council chambers public art;
- f. **Chair** Moyer and Mr. Koscianski will develop a list of potential locations for the artwork;
- g. **Chair** Moyer will look into new webpage for the AIPPC. Mr. Woodward noted that there has been authority given but design is needed. Mr. Arthur agreed to look at the current page to make suggestions;
- h. Mr. Fridrich will check with Ms. Raftovich to determine if copies of the AIPPC 2010-2012 annual report is available.

July 23, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Fridrich moved approval of the July 23, 2013 meeting minutes as written. Mr. Koscianski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 6-0. (Towle-Krewson not present at vote)

Giant Corporation Public Art Liabilities

Mr. Fridrich inquired about the status of the above that Mr. Woodward provided.

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Mr. Averill moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm. Mr. Fridrich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 6-0. (Towle-Krewson not present at vote)

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday October 22, 2013 at 6:30pm at Pip Moyer's Recreation Center.

Tami Hook, Recorder